

“Those others do not have pure motives as they preach about Christ. They preach with selfish ambition, not sincerely, intending to make my chains more painful to me. But that doesn’t matter. Whether their motives are false or genuine, the message about Christ is being preached either way, so I rejoice. And I will continue to rejoice.”
 Philippians 1:17-18 NLT

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I don't know how the Apostle Paul can be so bold about the message of Christ (as he puts it) and humble about others preaching/teaching different than himself! And the “others” have and are still causing problems in the church and for Paul himself. He's basically taking the stance that Jesus did when his followers tried to tattle on pho-disciples. There were others using the name of Christ to work miracles, but the guys knew they weren't followers! Jesus said, “leave them alone.” Wow! I am impressed and humbled by Paul's comments to the churches. False or genuine motives don't matter as much as the message of Christ being preached? Ahhhh - can I even handle that? Can our pastors, leaders and our churches handle that? Don't we all believe that MOTIVES matter and that truth is distorted through those bad motives or the impure, broken people delivering that message? Paul puts my heart in check with this message! Here he is in chains for the gospel and others are out there freely preaching their own versions and probably for selfish reasons! That doesn't seem fair, right? I'm being more and more convicted of using that word, “FAIR.” Paul never even hints at it. He has accepted his assignment and trusts God to do more through his obedience than all the great preaching he can deliver while free. I'm embarrassed to think that Paul can get more done being in prison than I can being free.

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Dad,

Talk about a major attitude check! This one comment from written thousands of years ago shames my comparative, competitive, conformative attitude towards other ministers, other leaders. Thank you for reminding me in your word about my thoughts and words towards others who do not answer to me, they answer (we all answer) to you. Let the message of Christ be spoken!

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root